

January 2, 1974

SPEAKER: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, I have an amendment up there for this bill. I'm wondering if we should have the amendments printed in the journal we could.

SPEAKER: It's ordered that amendments be printed in the Journal. No objections this is bracketed until next Wednesday. Thank you. LB217. Clerk will read LB217.

CLERK: Read LB217

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature. I have two amendments I would like to have adopted prior to discussion, of the bill itself. One page 3, line 26. This would be merely a change in date. So that if the bill should become operative it will not be defeated and run into a hodge podge because of this. One page 3, line 6. I would like to strike 74, and insert 1976. On page 4, line 1. I would like to strike 1976, and insert 1978. The reason for these amendments is as I say, should the bill be adopted, this would prevent a problem which would exist, should these dates not be changed.

SPEAKER: In other words, Senator. These are just technical amendments that have to be made.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER: All right. Is there any further discussion of these two amendments, that are being proposed by Senator Chambers. If not, all those in favor vote by saying aye, those opposed no. The amendments are adopted. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is precisely the same bill which was passed by a session of the Legislature and vetoed by the Governor after adjournment. He gave some reasons which are not too relevant at this time to be discussed, but they were not very substantial. This bill, to make a long story short, requires that a school board district, a school board in a class 5 school district, would be elected on the basis of geographical districts, so that every interest in that city served by that school district can have representation on the board which formulates educational policy for its children. The need for this type of legislation can clearly be seen in Omaha right now, which has been hit with a law suit by the U.S. Department of Justice, for racial segregation. Had there not been the type of gerrymandering which placed the people on the school board which exist there now, we would have not had to have a law suit. There's a possibility that this kind of issue could have been resolved at the school board level. Such things as the drawing of district boundaries to maintain segregation, the selection and location of school sites to maintain segregation. The segregative and discriminatory placement of teachers. All of these things have been criticized by the Justice Department. There currently is a law suit in the District Court in Omaha right now to fight this racial segregation. We all claim that equality before the law is the goal which is striven for by all people who believe in justice. To insure this in the educational realm in the city the size of Omaha requires the representation on the school board by somebody from every area of the city. This has not existed in Omaha. When the bill was heard before the Government and Military Affairs Committee, I did not ask for anybody else to speak on the bill because it had been heard several times. It had